

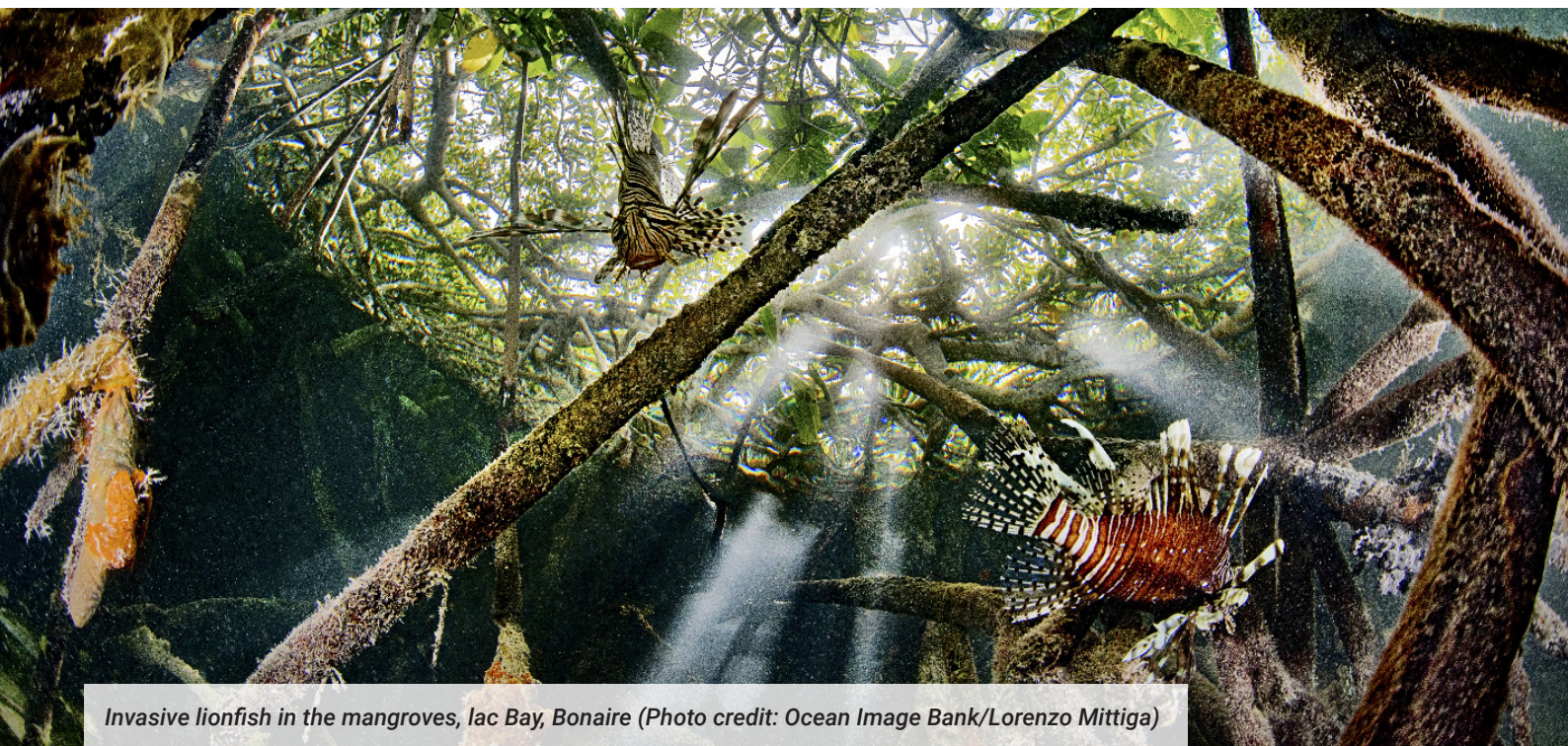
QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 155th Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

UN 
environment
programme

50
1972-2022



Invasive lionfish in the mangroves, Iac Bay, Bonaire (Photo credit: Ocean Image Bank/Lorenzo Mittiga)

Highlights



World Environment Day 2021: Ecosystem Restoration

[World Environment Day](#), was celebrated on 5 June 2021, under the theme [Ecosystem Restoration](#). Pakistan hosted the [official live event](#) that reached over 170 million people. Prime Minister Imran Khan announced the planting of the first billion trees under the [10 Billion Tree Tsunami initiative](#).

UNEP and FAO [launched](#) the [United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#). UNEP released a synthesis report titled, [Becoming #GenerationRestoration: Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature and Climate](#). It is a call to action for everyone to join the restoration movement to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.



World Oceans Day

[World Oceans Day 2021](#), was celebrated globally on 8 June 2021, under the theme, "Lives and Livelihoods." UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign reaffirmed its global efforts to tackle marine litter and plastic pollution with a focus on the relationship between [seas and oceans and human rights](#).



Science for Action

For the first time the [Global Methane Assessment](#) integrated the climate and air pollution costs and benefits from methane mitigation. The 2020 [Protected Planet Report](#), delivers the final report on progress achieved against the [Aichi Biodiversity Target 11](#), on conservation of terrestrial and inland water as well as coastal and marine areas. The report found that the international community has made major progress towards the global target on protected and conserved area coverage but fell short on its commitments on the quality of the protected areas.

The [State of Finance for Nature](#) revealed that if the world was to meet the climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation targets, it needed to close a USD 4.1 trillion financing gap by 2050. The second edition of [Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs](#) was launched on the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2021. The International Resource Panel assessment on [Governing coastal resources: Implications for a Sustainable Blue Economy](#), provided possible governance responses to reduce the effects of land-based activities on coastal resources.



UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50

On 24 May 2021, the General Assembly through [resolution 75/280](#), decided to convene an international meeting titled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity." UNEP will serve as the focal point for providing support for organizing the meeting with appropriate support from the Secretariat and other relevant UN entities. The Assembly also decided that the international meeting should be mutually reinforcing with UNEP@50 to avoid overlap and duplication.

Table of Contents

Highlights.....	2
1. Significant Developments.....	3
2. Programme of Work Implementation.....	8
2.1 Climate Change.....	8
2.1.1 Key highlights.....	8
2.1.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses.....	9
2.2 Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts.....	10
2.2.1 Key highlights.....	10
2.2.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses.....	10
2.3 Healthy and Productive Ecosystems.....	12
2.3.1 Key highlights.....	12
2.3.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses.....	12
2.4 Environmental Governance.....	13
2.4.1 Key highlights.....	13
2.4.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses.....	13
2.5 Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality.....	15
2.5.1 Key highlights.....	15
2.5.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses.....	15
2.6 Resource Efficiency.....	17
2.6.1 Key highlights.....	17
2.6.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses.....	18
2.7 Environment under Review.....	19
2.7.1 Key highlights.....	19
2.8 Cross-Cutting Issues.....	21
3. Resources and Management Issues.....	23
3.1 Financial Update as at 30 June 2021.....	23
3.2 Status of Allocations and Expenditures as at 30 June 2021.....	27
3.3 Resource Mobilization Strategy.....	30
3.4 Human Resources.....	30
3.5 Audits.....	36
3.6 Evaluations.....	37

1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

DELIVERY IN THE COVID-19 CONTEXT

COVID-19 continued to impact some project implementation activities, particularly in relation to the ongoing Global Environment Facility projects. UNEP worked to mitigate this impact.

COVID-19 also affected the organization of meetings such as the fourth intersessional meeting for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Also affected were the intersessional meetings for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) and the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5).

The African Elephant Fund (AEF) Steering Committee issued an emergency call for proposals to support Range States in addressing and mitigating COVID-19 risks related to Elephant Conservation. Currently, 10 projects have been initiated and implementation is ongoing in different Range States.

To reduce the public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals for food in traditional food markets, UNEP, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) issued [guidance](#) on actions to make traditional markets safer while recognizing their central

role in providing food and livelihoods for large populations. The guidance also calls on national competent authorities to suspend the trade of live caught wild animals of mammalian species for food or breeding purposes. As an emergency measure, the guidance also recommends closing sections of food markets that sell live wild animals where there are no effective regulations in place or adequate risk assessments.

The UN Environment Management Group (EMG), in close collaboration with UNEP, UNESCAP, UNECE, UNECA, ECLAC, ESCWA, and RCNYO, organized a 3-part series of virtual Nexus Dialogues on [Addressing COVID-19 for the Environment: Defining Green Recovery](#) (27 April 2021); [Financing Green Recovery](#) (27 April 2021) and [Regional Nexus Approaches to Building Back Better](#) (15 June 2021). An executive summary is available [here](#).

GLOBAL

World Environment Day: Together we can be Generation Restoration

[World Environment Day](#), was celebrated on 5 June 2021, under the theme [Ecosystem Restoration](#). Pakistan hosted the [official live event](#) that reached over 170 million people. Prime Minister Imran Khan announced the planting of the first billion trees under the [10 Billion Tree Tsunami Initiative](#).



Women working in government-owned nurseries in Haripur, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan. Pakistan has launched one of the largest reforestation initiatives in the world – the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme. (Photo credit: Inter Press Service (IPS)/ Zofeen T. Ebrahim)

Governments and the private sector made a series of [financial and political commitments](#). A [Virtual Youth Forum](#) organized by UNEP and the United Nations Department on Global Communication involved over 2,000 participants worldwide and reached more than 2 million people on Instagram.

UNEP and FAO led the [launch](#) of the [United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#). More than 50 events took place, organized by 41 partners with over 300 speakers, including ministers, youth leaders, CEOs, environmental activists and musicians. UNEP released a synthesis report [Becoming #GenerationRestoration: Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature and Climate](#). It is a call to action to everyone to join the restoration movement to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.

Integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for Sustainable Development

On 4 May 2021, the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the “Common Approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development” into the UN’s policy and programme planning and delivery. Through this [Common Approach to Biodiversity](#), the UN system commits to mainstream biodiversity and catalyse collective action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and ultimately live in harmony with nature. In close coordination with other UN entities, UNEP and UNDP will continue to lead its implementation, and will facilitate its operationalization at the global, regional and country levels.

UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50

On 24 May 2021, the General Assembly through [resolution 75/280](#), decided to convene an international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”. The meeting is to take place in Stockholm 2 - 3 June 2022, the week of World Environment Day. It commemorates 50 years since the UN Conference on the Human Environment and its outcome. Stockholm+50 is expected to contribute to the environmental dimension of sustainable development and accelerate the implementation of commitments in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, including a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. UNEP will serve as the focal point for providing support for organizing the meeting with appropriate support from the Secretariat and other relevant UN entities. The General Assembly also decided that the international meeting should be mutually reinforcing with UNEP@50 to avoid overlap and duplication. The President of the General Assembly appointed the permanent representatives of Kenya and Sweden to the UN, as co-facilitators of a resolution on modalities.

Science for Action

The 2020 [Protected Planet Report](#), launched on 19 May 2021 at a high-level [press conference](#), delivers the final report on progress achieved against Aichi Target 11. The report finds that the international community has made major progress towards the global target on protected and conserved area coverage but has fallen far short on its commitments on the quality of these areas.



Environmental Moments: A UNEP@50 timeline (Photo credit: UNEP)

Stockholm+50 2022



On 22 May 2021, the second edition of [Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs Report](#) was launched for the [International Day for Biological Diversity](#).

AFRICA

The Bureau of the [African Ministerial Conference on the Environment \(AMCEN\)](#) met virtually on 26 and 27 May 2021. It discussed implementation of [decisions](#) of its [Eighth special session](#), including the [African Green Stimulus Programme](#), an African-led initiative to support the continent's recovery response to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in a sustainable manner, and follow up to UNEA5.1. AMCEN also deliberated on preparations for the COP 26 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and COP 15 of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

On 15 June 2021, the African Group of Biodiversity Negotiators met with Biodiversity Focal Points from 33 nations with UNEP's support. The meeting discussed outcomes of

the [subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and preparations for the Open Ended Working Group of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be held in August 2021.

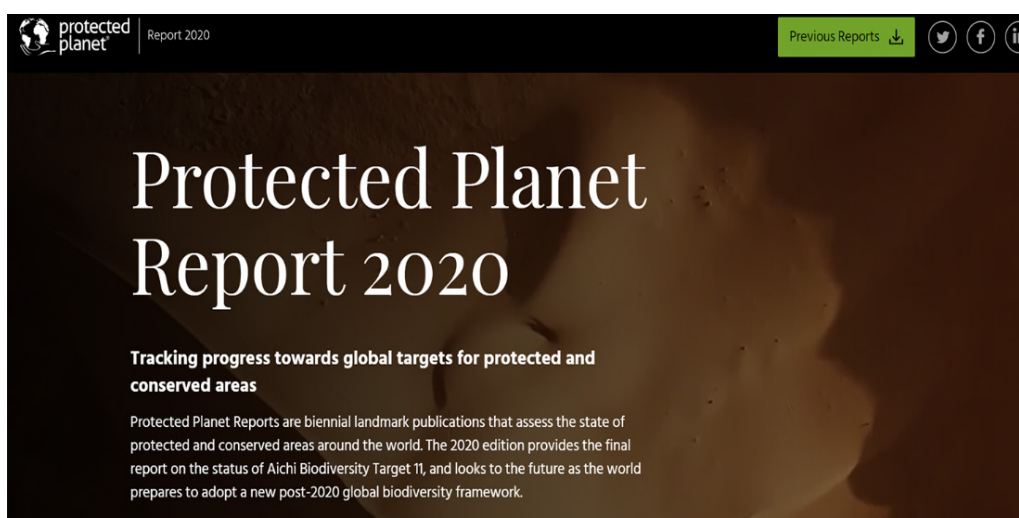
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

World Judicial Conference on Environment

The World Judicial Conference on Environment was hosted by UNEP and the Supreme People's Court of China in Yunnan, China from 26 - 27 May 2021. The conference adopted the [Kunming Declaration](#) that calls for enhancing the judicial response to environmental crisis, advocating for the use of diversified judicial measures and promoting the professional development of environmental justice.

The 2021 P4G Seoul Summit

67 world leaders and heads of international organizations united for climate action, called for concrete action to meet ambitious climate commitments, at the [2021 P4G Seoul Summit](#) held from 30 - 31 May 2021. Delegates at the





summit discussed experiences on inclusive green recovery; efforts to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2050; and to strengthen climate action and facilitate public-private partnership.

EUROPE

UNEP continued to lead the Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia by developing a [guidance document](#) on integrating environment and climate change into processes for UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). This guidance is the latest addition to the IBC's 'tool-box' to help Country Teams and ensure that these key issues are duly considered in national development processes. UNEP will work with IBC partners to provide training to all UN Country Teams in the region on this guidance.

The Shar Mountain National Park was proclaimed on 30 June 2021, in North Macedonia, adding a missing piece to a network of transboundary national parks. The proclamation not only secures the area as a National Park, but also improves conservation and livelihoods of communities, who now fully back the concepts of biodiversity, ecotourism and sustainability.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The First Virtual Meeting of the new Bureau of the Forum of Ministers of Environment (2021-2022) was held on 24 June 2021. The

meeting reviewed and made suggestions to the proposed Workplan of the Forum, as well as the proposed Roadmap 2021-2022, which will be revised and shared with all the countries of the region. The Intersessional meeting is expected to be organized before UNEA 5.2.

NORTH AMERICA

UNEP and Future Earth held a convening meeting with Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft, Google, Apple and others on UNEP's new Digital Transformation Sub-programme on 6 May 2021. Participants expressed interest in continuing the conversation.

The US convened the [Leaders' Summit on Climate](#) on 22-23 April 2021, bringing together leaders from 40 countries, and announced a new commitment to achieve a 50-52% reduction in emissions by 2030.

The US also launched [America the Beautiful](#) aimed at conserving [30% of lands, freshwaters and ocean areas by 2030](#). Canada committed to conserving [25% of its lands and waters by 2025](#), adding up to 1 million square kilometres of protected and conserved areas.



UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen briefing to the Security Council on Yemen
(Photo credit: UN)

WEST ASIA

UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen briefed the UN Security Council on 3 June 2021, on the aging oil tanker [FSO Safer](#), anchored off the shores of Yemen. Andersen warned that the risk remains and the situation will deteriorate as delays mount. She also urged international partners to intensify efforts to address the situation.

Support of the UN reform at the regional and national levels is on-going. As a co-convenor for two Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs) on environment, climate and urbanization, UNEP participated in a midyear review meeting on 6 July 2021. Good progress was reported in the delivery of results of the IBCs as per the work plans. The IBC's meeting recommended actions to further strengthen the linkages between the IBCs and UN Resident Coordinators in the region.

Ministers of Environment of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf Countries (GCC) met on 8 June 2021. They requested UNEP's continued cooperation on the implementation of the priority projects under the joint

partnership for the Green Gulf Initiative; on environment protection during coastal dredging; improving air quality monitoring; unifying system for chemicals management; and preparing the first environment outlook for the GCC under the joint partnership for the Green Gulf Initiative.

In the context of the UN Reform Agenda, UNEP has taken the decision to re-locate the Regional Office for West Asia to Beirut, Lebanon. The decision is in regards to the General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/279 to "revamp the United Nations development system at the regional level and optimizing functions and enhance collaboration at the regional and subregional levels", as well as UNEP's response to this reform and in alignment with paragraph 88 of the Outcome Document, "the Future We Want".

The Office in Bahrain will maintain a light presence and a final decision on its operational scope is currently under review. The Regional Office will be housed within the premises of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which will enhance the opportunities for UNEP to have greater impact on the sustainable development agenda. The relocation is expected to be completed by 15 December 2021.

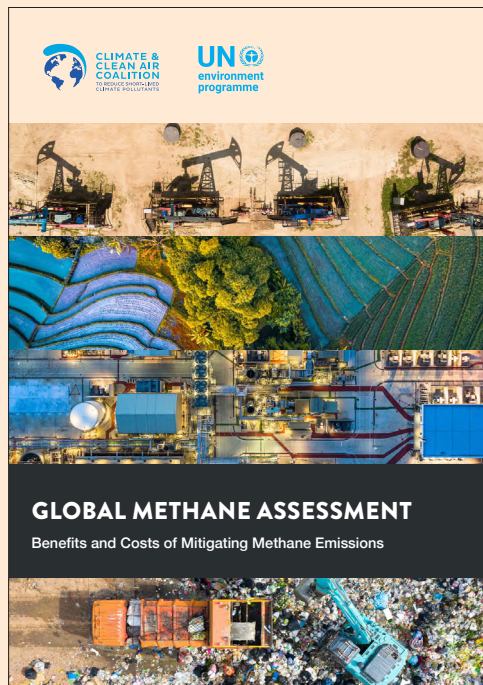
2. PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 CLIMATE CHANGE¹

2.1.1 Key highlights

Clean Climate and Air Coalition (CCAC) launched the CCAC [Global Methane Assessment](#) on 6 May 2021. For the first time, the assessment integrates the climate and air pollution costs and benefits from methane mitigation.

In June 2021, the United for Efficiency programme hosted a side event in the High-Level Energy Dialogue Ministerial Thematic Forums. The [event](#) was titled “Regional Compact for Higher Performance “Eco-Efficient Lighting, Appliances and Equipment For All. This side event was held on 23 June 2021 in New York. It explored harmonizing standards and supporting policies to accelerate transition to eco-efficient lighting, appliances, and equipment.



UNEP’s CityAdapt Project participated in the G20’s webinar on [Resilient, Smart, and Sustainable Cities](#): The Potential for Nature Based Solutions. CityAdapt is building climate resilience in Xalapa (Mexico), Kingston (Jamaica), and San Salvador (El Salvador).

The UN-REDD Programme participated in the launch of the [Play4Forest campaign](#), which was live in 11 languages. Several gaming studios developed ideas to integrate forest messaging in the games.

The UN REDD Programme also hosted a [Global Knowledge Exchange](#) on Results Based Payments (RBPs) in collaboration with Green Climate Fund (GCF). The session focused on Latin America and the Caribbean informing the future trends on the Results Based Payments funding window.

In June 2021, UNEP, in partnership with private sector institutions, launched the [Business Alliance of Scale Climate Solutions](#) (BASCS). The partnership aims to scale up business investments in nature-based climate solutions.



*Global Assessment: Urgent steps must be taken to reduce methane emissions this decade
(Photo credit: Pixabay)*

2.1.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

Countries have begun implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions and are expected to report to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on activities. UNEP's Capacity Building Initiative on Enhanced Transparency Framework offers countries an opportunity to build their capacities to establish institutional arrangements and systems that ensure high quality data from collection to reporting.

2.2 RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

2.2.1 Key highlights

In June 2021, [Words into Action: Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), was launched. The publication contains practical guidance to Member States and partners on how to develop and implement Nature-based Solutions (NBS) for disaster risk reduction (DDR) and climate change adaptation. UNEP co-authored the report and led on the technical dimensions of the environmental aspects of the DDR agenda.

UNEP and the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit led three environmental emergency response missions. The first response followed the La Soufriere volcanic eruptions which impacted Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados. A team of 14 experts supported national authorities in dealing with the environmental dimensions of the emergency, including erosion and flood risk, ash management, as well as air, soil and water pollution.

A second mission supported Sri Lanka following [the wrecking of the MV X-Press Pearl ship](#). The ship's cargo, included nitric acid, oil and, according to independent estimates, up to 75 billion small plastic pellets known as nurdles. The incident has been described as the biggest environmental catastrophe for Sri Lanka since the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. UNEP helped measure the environmental impact and supported response work as well as Sri Lanka's engagement with the ship owners and insurers.

In Guyana, UNEP supported the UN's response to flooding. An environmental expert led a sectoral assessment of the mining sector and made recommendations to mitigate the humanitarian and environmental impacts of flooding in mining areas.



UNEP has been supporting the development of a National Environment Policy (NEP) in Afghanistan. Consultations with the NEP Working Group led by the National Environment Policy Agency are underway to finalize the draft policy and to organize online consultations with stakeholders.

2.2.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

Mainstreaming the current Resilience to Disasters & Conflict subprogramme across the new Medium-Term Strategy, will be strengthened, through the functions of *Disasters and Conflicts Global Support* under the existing UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, Crisis Management Unit and Environment Security Unit.

The Branch will lead work on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Security issues and Response and Recovery across the new programmatic pillars of Climate, Nature, and Chemical and Pollution. A programme framework for this work is under development. Digital transformation priorities have been identified.





Crews collect lentil-sized plastic pellets from a Sri Lankan beach. By one estimate, the X-Press Pearl was carrying some 75 billion of these pellets when it sank off the coast of Colombo. (Photo credit: Shutterstock/ Ruwan Walpola)

2.3 HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS

2.3.1 Key highlights

The UNEP- International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP), co-organized with partners, the virtual segment of the [Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity as the first Parallel Session of CBD COP15](#) which took place 13-23 April 2021. More than 1,000 representatives from research institutions, governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders attended the forum to discuss and make recommendations on the formulation and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

On World Food Safety Day, 3 June 2021, UNEP, [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), World Health Organization (WHO) and [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#) jointly hosted a regional food safety event. It focused on the holistic “One Health” approach for food safety.

On 3 June 2021, UNEP released the [Ecosystem Accounts for China: Report of the NCAVES project](#)

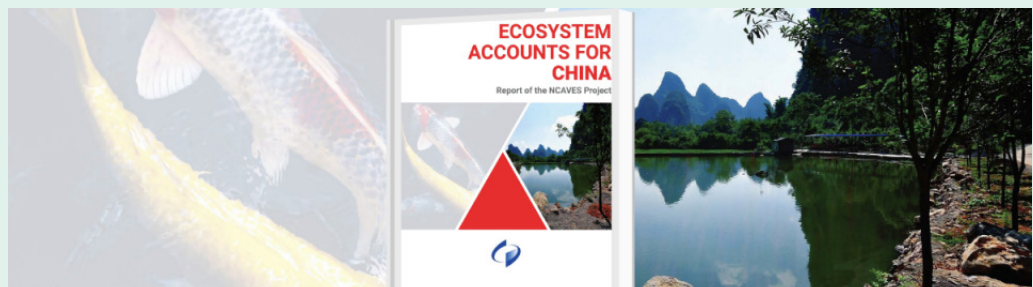
at the final event of the project Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES). The final report summarizes all the accounts developed throughout the life of the project. Highlights include China’s Gross Ecosystem Product (GEP) metric that is set for inclusion in the monitoring of targets in the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, and the use of ecosystem accounts for calibration of ecological compensation schemes.



2.3.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

In May 2021, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed a common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery. Through this [Common Approach to Biodiversity](#), the UN system commits to mainstream biodiversity and catalyse collective action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and ultimately living in harmony with nature.

Engaging with the implementation of the common approach on biodiversity will contribute to the implementation of the Nature Action subprogramme and will support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity.



2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE²

2.4.1 Key highlights

Montevideo Programme V

A virtual session of the [First Global Meeting of National Focal Points](#) was convened from 2 - 4 June 2021. The meeting designated a Steering Committee for Implementation, adopted work modalities for the Committee and agreed on initial priority areas for implementation.

Faith for Earth Initiative

Faith leaders in India [launched](#) campaigns for environmental action and partnered with the Holy See, the UK and Italian Governments for the Faith and Science Conference on COP 26 at the Vatican.

The Data Reporting tool (DaRT)

A third training workshop on DaRT was convened in Cameroon from 21- 25 June 2021. National participants who use and manage biodiversity related information across various national institutions were trained on different aspects of the tool. The workshop endorsed the mapping of Cameroon's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) with global Multilateral Environment Agreement (MEA) goals and initiated Cameroon's DaRT National Committee.

Strengthening Environmental Rule of Law

UNEP supported the adjudication of environmental cases through [webinars](#), [capacity building forums](#), [courses](#), [outreach](#), materials on human rights, environmental defenders and environmental crime.



Environmental governance

2.4.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

The COVID-19 Pandemic remains a challenge to project implementation. To adapt to these unprecedented times, project managers have adopted different mechanisms (e.g., virtual events) to ensure that project implementation does not lag.

Resource Mobilization has also been a challenge. UNEP, in coordination with UNEP-WCMC, produced a [paper](#) on resource mobilization to support deliberations of the third meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation. It outlines key considerations on resource mobilization for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the context of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.





UNEP's Faith for Earth Initiative, in partnership with the United Religions Initiative (URI) innovative training held at the UN House in India in June 2021 (Photo credit: UN Environment Programme/India Office)

2.5 CHEMICALS, WASTE AND AIR QUALITY

2.5.1 Key highlights

The Fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management (ICCM5) High-Level Declaration (HLD) informal drafting group completed their deliberations and the Co-facilitators' report is available [here](#). The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) Secretariat launched a new [online Knowledge Platform](#) to advance the implementation of the current objectives and deliberations of the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

UNEP supported the Government of Iraq to complete the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), paving the way for the ratification of the Minamata Convention. In addition, it also developed inventories of Persistent Organic Pollutants for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

UNEP, together with the partner ACT Malaysia, has completed a demonstration project aimed at tackling wastewater pollution in the Sabah Marine National Park, Malaysia. The [project](#) was selected [among the SDG Good Practices by UNDESA](#). It is a successful example of an alternative and low-cost technology for wastewater treatment, economic development, and community empowerment with the potential for large-scale replication.

UNEP provided technical and logistical support to the two pre-meetings of the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution from 27- 28 May and 28- 29 June 2021. The [Conference took place](#) from 1- 2 September 2021.

The UNEP Global Partnership on Nutrients Management participated in the [eighth Global Nitrogen Conference](#) hosted by Germany from 31 May to 3 June 2021. It focused on nitrogen and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and supports the implementation of UNEA4/14 on "Sustainable Nitrogen Management". The meeting



Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality

adopted the ["Berlin Declaration on Nitrogen"](#).

The [fifth round of applications under the Special Programme](#) on Institutional Strengthening was launched in April 2021, and closed on 7 August 2021.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), GIZ, and UNEP, launched a nation-wide awareness campaign on single use plastics, alternatives to plastics and Rethinking Packaging, value chain actors, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

UNEP, Google and AIT, organized the Citizen Science event webinar titled ["Discovering Plastic Leakage Hotspots,"](#) which took place on 2 June 2021.

2.5.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the planning of key face-to-face meetings, including fourth meeting of the Intersessional Process (IP4) and the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) of SAICM. The results of the [survey on stakeholders' experience of the virtual working group process](#) will support the ICCM5 Bureau discussions on the way forward and continue working virtually until the time when face-to-face meetings are feasible.





The tank design accommodates high and low tides, with the difference between the two normally 1.0-1.5m. (Photo credit: ACT Malaysia)

2.6 RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

2.6.1 Key highlights

International Resource Panel

- The assessment [Governing coastal resources: Implications for a Sustainable Blue Economy](#) provides possible governance responses to reduce the effects of land-based activities on coastal resources.
- [The Use of Natural Resources in the Economy: A Global Manual on Economy Wide Material Flow Accounting](#) provides global guidance for compiling material flow accounts, which can be used by national statistical systems around the world.

Greening recovery

On 8 April 2021, UNEP supported the UN Development Cooperation Office on [outreach](#) to UN Resident Coordinators on greening recovery efforts and on addressing the triple planetary crises. Raising the awareness of teams in UN Country offices on effective mainstreaming of environmental solutions to green COVID-19 recovery efforts will allow them to identify and optimise narrow windows of opportunities for transformation policies and action at country level.

Food waste

In April 2021, the [Sustainable Ramadan campaign](#) raised awareness on food waste in the West-Asia region and was very active on social media. The campaign attracted the attention and inspired actions from considerable regional and country stakeholders. Awareness material in Arabic and English were posted on the social media such as Twitter and Instagram.

SDG12

A course on [Circular Economy and Sustainable Lifestyles](#) was held to promote uptake of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies in Asia. The Asia-Pacific high-level [launch](#) of the Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs) project on 21 April 2021, was accompanied by



a training on Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspot Analysis and a dialogue for youth. The project aims to accelerate regional solutions for inclusive green economies and sustainable consumption and production by sharing best practices and offering science-based knowledge, policy tools and capacity development opportunities in priority areas to “build back better.”

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

The first [regional workshop on EPR for packaging waste](#), organized on 4 June 2021, presented EPR policies and practices in Eastern Europe Partnership countries. The workshop facilitated regional dialogue and information sharing on the status of EPR in the countries. This included discussions on main issues and bottlenecks in EPR implementation, and solutions for successful implementation of EPR schemes in the region.

Sustainable Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean

Four [case studies](#) on the application of the Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information were launched. To advance [sustainable public procurement](#) in the construction sector in the Eastern Caribbean, 22 officials successfully completed an eight-week online course. A [webinar](#) on the [Little Book of Green Nudges](#) brought together university networks of Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica. UNEP is collaborating with universities to reduce their environmental impact through behavioural change through this concise and user-friendly publication.





Assorted vegetables on brown textile (Photo credit: Unsplash.com)

2.6.2 Main opportunities, challenges and responses

The global material footprint, that is, the total amount of raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands, increased by 70% between 2010 and 2017. This footprint is one indication of the pressures on the environment to support economic growth and satisfy the material needs of people. The global material footprint is increasing at a faster rate than both population and economic output. This highlights the urgency of decoupling material footprint growth from either population growth or GDP growth. Integrating the socio-economic costs of natural resource extraction, transformation, use and disposal are essential to address the triple planetary crises.

2.7 ENVIRONMENT UNDER REVIEW

2.7.1 Key highlights

Building Capacity through Environmental Statistics and SDG Indicator trainings

The second edition of [Measuring Progress: Environment and the SDGs](#) was launched on International Biodiversity Day, 22 May 2021. To complement this work, an [e-learning course](#) on Environmental SDG Indicators was also launched in April 2021.

The final Virtual National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation was convened in May 2021, under a project funded by the Russian Federation. The project focuses on improving data generation and environmental monitoring in Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

UNEP organised/co-hosted the following trainings, webinars and capacity building initiatives

- Joint UNEP/UNITAR three-day regional training webinar on e-waste statistics in May 2021, with participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- Joint capacity building webinar held on 25 May 2021, focusing on environmental SDG indicator methodologies under SDG indicators 3.9.1; 12.3.1 (a) and (b), and 12.6.1. It was organized by UNEP/UNRC Office of Serbia with the Statistical Office of Serbia.
- Three events on the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and the environmental dimension of the SDGs under three themes (water, waste, and biodiversity) co-hosted by UNEP, UNECE and Environment Agency. Participating countries included Austria, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia.



Environment under review

UNEP helped national SDG Secretariat and country teams in Bhutan, Indonesia and Lao People's Democratic Republic to integrate environmental dimension indicators, progress and challenges in their respective 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports.

Building on Science to Policy Interface

UNEP's first synthesis report, ['Making Peace with Nature'](#), was presented in high-level meetings between April and June 2021, ranging from the Future of GEO Steering Committee meeting, the EU Commission, Member States and UN Agencies, to Diplomatic Missions in Beijing. This was done in partnership with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the European Union and Norway Delegations.

Five webinars on sargassum were organised in May to June 2020. On 10 June 2021, the [Sargassum White Paper: Turning the crisis into an opportunity](#), for the Caribbean was launched.

In April, the first official website of UNEP-hosted [World Adaptation Science Programme \(WASP\)](#) was launched. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations University (UNU) officially joined the WASP as members of its [Management Group](#). The World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA) Capacity Development Consortium was also launched.

Strengthening Environmental Data

In a new partnership initiative, UNEP and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies





Main opportunities, challenges and responses

More consistent and stable country data is needed on the SDGs, MEAs and other environmental indicators for assessments and by policymakers.

- A main challenge is making compatible various technology-enabled platforms and addressing the lack of proficiency in policy communities to gather and use data effectively and efficiently.
- UNEP's WESR provides open access to environmental data and tools for distilling knowledge from data, offers opportunities for compiling and analysing scattered data sets to reveal patterns, provide early warning, spot emerging issues, track progress and correct course.
- UNEP, through a working group established in January 2021, is developing a Roadmap on Environment Statistics, Accounting and Analysis. The roadmap presents an opportunity to bridge data gaps through improved methodologies for data collection for SDG indicators where UNEP is Custodian Agency.

(IGES) will develop 20 country³ profiles for the World Environment Situation Room (WESR) country pages. The initiative is set to deliver the Asia-Pacific component of WESR.

On 15 July 2021, an inaugural meeting of a Data Governance Group (DGG) established by UNEP was convened to oversee implementation of the [Global Environmental Data Strategy](#) and UNEP's WESR.

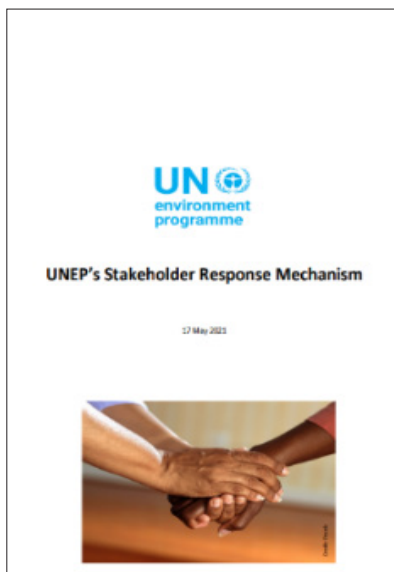
UNEP hosted a meeting in North America on **Environmental Sustainability in the Digital Age** on 6 May 2021. Key takeaways included identifying networks and mutually enforcing partnerships and recognising UNEP as a key player in digital transformations for environmental sustainability.

In Africa, UNEP provided technical support to six⁴ UN country teams on the incorporation of credible environmental data, statistics, and policy-relevant analysis in Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. In June 2021, UNEP and the Africa Energy Commission of the African Union Commission (AUC) organised an "[International Workshop on Bioenergy Monitoring and Reporting in Africa](#)," where the results of a desk study on [Review of Woodfuel Biomass Production and Utilization in Africa](#) were presented.

2.8 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Environmental and social safeguards

The revised [stakeholder response mechanism](#), which is designed for the UNEP to respond to the stakeholders who are negatively affected by UNEP projects, is available in all 6 UN official languages. It outlines the process and guidelines for the operation of the UNEP's stakeholder response mechanism through the project-specific grievance mechanism and Independent Office for Stakeholder Safeguard-related Response (IOSSR).



ENDNOTES

- 1 Linked to UNEP resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.2, 13.a and 13.b; UNEP/EA.3/Res.8 and SDGs 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.3.1, 7.a.1, 7.b.1, 9.4.1, 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 17.17.1; and UNEP/EA.2/Res.6 and SDGs 12.c.1, 13.3.2, 13.a, 13.b, 15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.6.1 and 17.17.1.
- 2 Highlights support for the implementation of UNEA resolutions 2/2, 2/5, 2/17, 2/19 and 2/21.
- 3 China, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Viet Nam and Papua New Guinea
- 4 Egypt (UNSDCF 2023-2027); Eritrea (UNSDCF 2022-2026); Guinea (Conakry) on CCA; Ghana (CCA); Kenya (CCA finalization); Nigeria (CCA finalization)

3. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 FINANCIAL UPDATE AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

Overview of income

By the end of the second quarter, as at 30 June 2021, UNEP had received US\$ 232.9 million of income, or 53 per cent, against the budgeted income of US\$ 439.7 million. The income comprises the annual funds of the United Nations Regular Budget and the Environment Fund, as well as earmarked contributions which include multi-year funding⁴.

Core funding

Core funding to UNEP consists of the Environment Fund and the United Nations Regular Budget.

The United Nations Regular Budget appropriation⁵ is usually fully allotted in advance. However, due to the continuing liquidity challenges, same as last year, the allotments will be released in portions. The United Nations Regular Budget supports the UN Environment Assembly in the years it takes place and finances core work in science, capacity building, management, and oversight.

The Environment Fund is UNEP's main source of unearmarked funds giving the organization flexibility in programming for efficient and effective delivery of results. In the second quarter of 2021, the Environment Fund income increased by two per cent compared to same time last year and amounted to 58 per cent of the approved 2021 budget.

Earmarked contributions

Earmarked contributions enable the scaling-up and replication of results of core work, including capacity-building in more countries and with more partners. Where possible, UNEP encourages "soft earmarking" of the funding, for example at the sub-programme level. This gives more flexibility in targeting funds to where they are most needed and reduces resources spent on programme support by simplifying administrative procedures and reporting requirements.

FIGURE 1 Budget and Income January 2021–June 2021

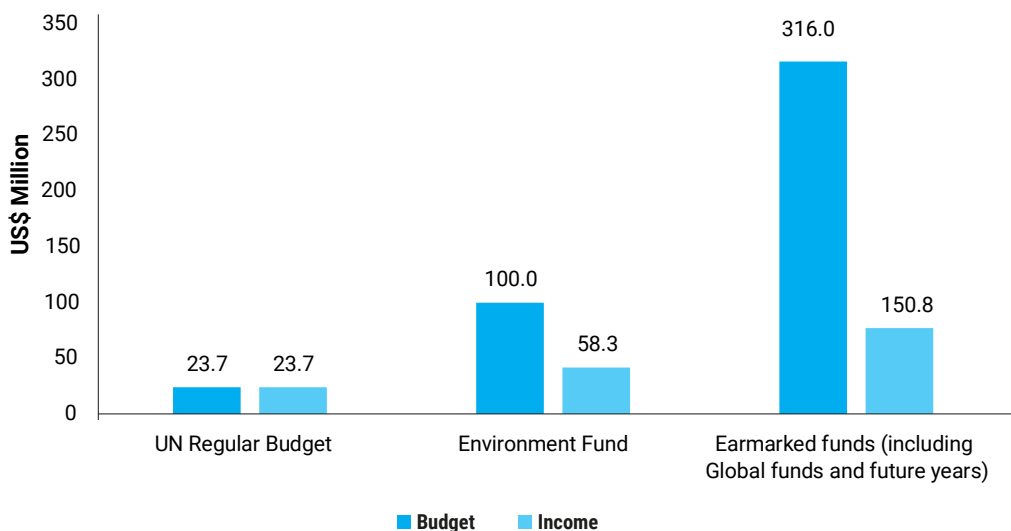
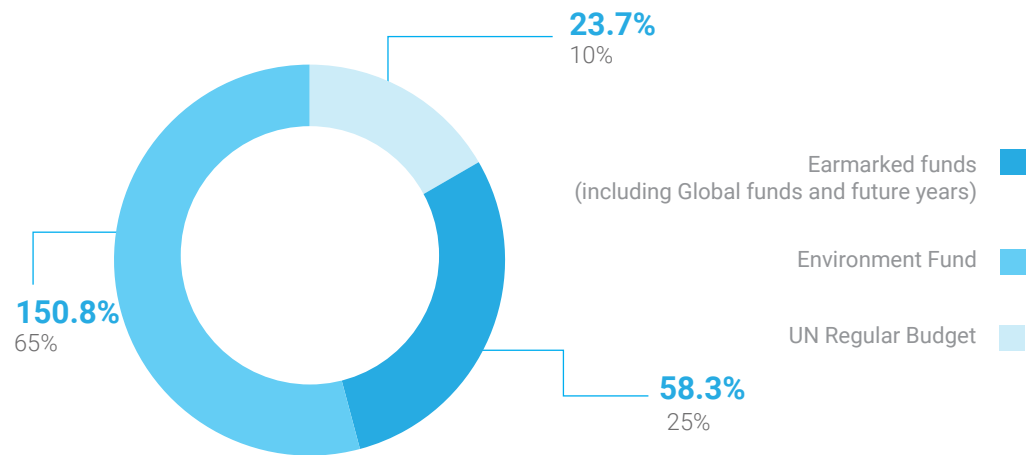


FIGURE 2 Income per Source of Fund (in US\$ Million) January 2021–June 2021



By 30 June 2021, the organization had received US\$ 150.8 million in earmarked funds for the current and future years, against the budgeted amount of US\$ 316 million. Out of this income, 15 per cent were “softly earmarked” funds provided mainly by Norway and Sweden.

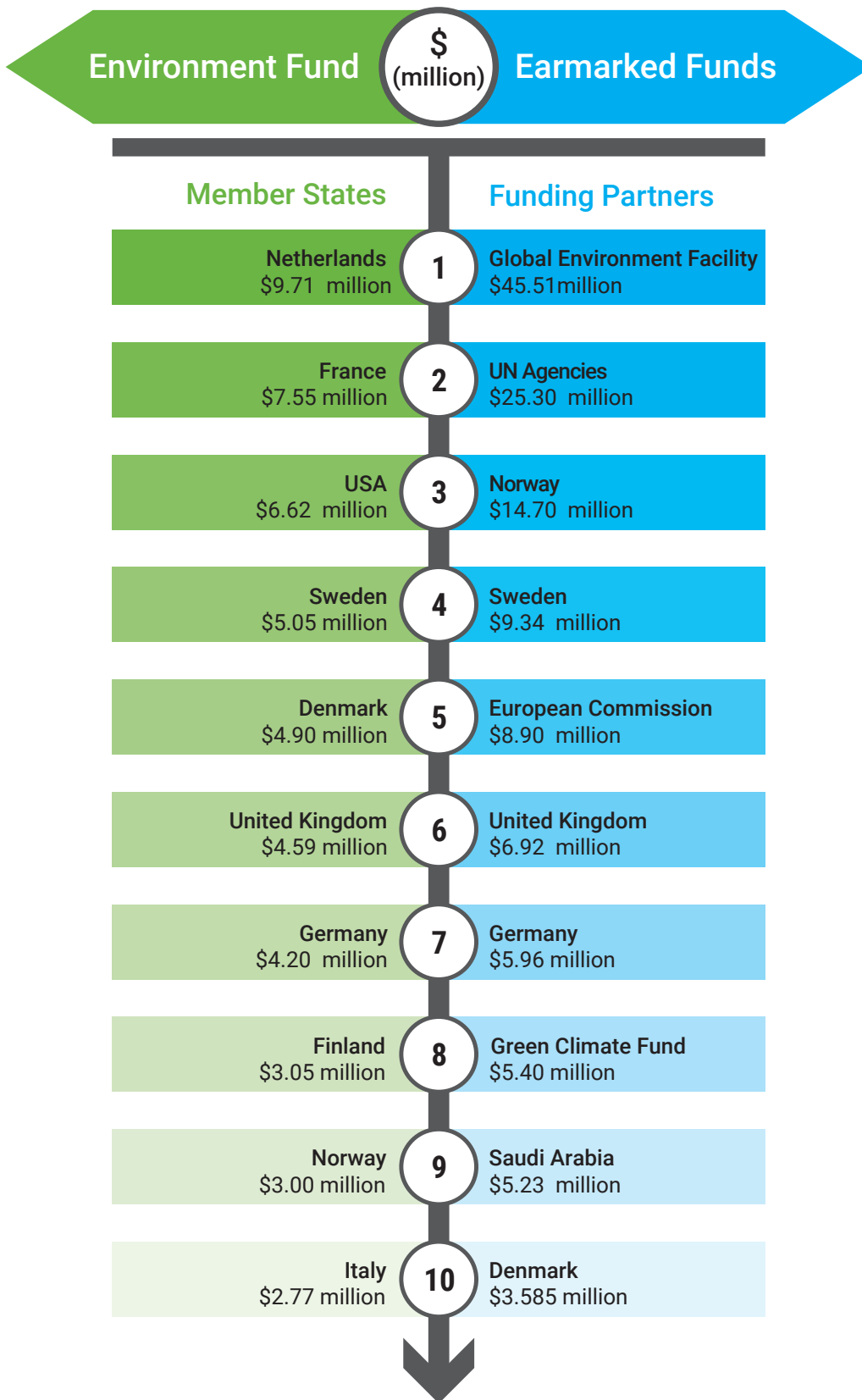
Funding partners

UNEP is grateful to all the contributing Member States and other funding partners for their commitment and support to the organization.

UNEP appreciates all the 50 Member States that had made pledges to the Environment Fund by 30 June 2021. Special thanks to the 22 Member States that contributed at their “fair share” level, as established by the Voluntary Indicative Scale of Contributions (VISC), showing leadership that benefits the entire global community.

The number of Member States contributing is 19 per cent more than at the same time last year. However, it represents only 26 per cent of the universal membership. UNEP invites all the remaining Member States to pay their “fair share” as part of honouring their commitment to global environmental action. The [fair share video](#) explains the relevance of the contributions to Environment Fund for the global action on environment.

FIGURE 3 Top 10 Contributors to the Environment Fund (January 2021 - June 2021)



Member States that contributed their 'fair share' as represented by the VISC (January -June 2021)

Païd	Pledged
Belarus	Albania
Cyprus	Brunei Darussalam
Denmark	Finland
Fiji	Monaco
France	Netherlands
Georgia	United Kingdom
Iceland	
Jordan	
Latvia	
Mauritius	
Micronesia (Federated States of)	
Norway	
Slovenia	
Somalia	
Sweden	
Tuvalu	

3.2 STATUS OF ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURES AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

2020-2021 Core Budgets - Programme of work budget(\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	4,000,000	20,000	423,200	4,443,200
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	7,200,000	-	6,751,900	13,951,900
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,697,500	1,697,500
	Subtotal A + B	11,200,000	20,000	8,872,600	20,092,600
C	Programme of Work				-
1.	Climate change	22,200,000	7,200,000	4,522,300	33,922,300
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	15,600,000	1,000,000	3,089,400	19,689,400
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	28,000,000	2,100,000	5,261,500	35,361,500
4.	Environmental governance	26,200,000	2,100,000	9,197,800	37,497,800
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	23,400,000	3,000,000	3,608,600	30,008,600
6.	Resource efficiency	28,400,000	3,000,000	3,953,900	35,353,900
7.	Environment under review	23,000,000	400,000	6,178,400	29,578,400
	Subtotal C	166,800,000	18,800,000	35,811,900	221,411,900
D	Fund Programme Reserve	10,000,000			10,000,000
	Subtotal C + D	176,800,000	18,800,000	35,811,900	231,411,900
E	Programme Management and Other				-
	Programme Support (Office for Operations; UNON/UNOG bills; After-service health insurance provision)	12,000,000	19,180,000	2,400,200	33,580,200
	Subtotal E	12,000,000	19,180,000	2,400,200	33,580,200
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	200,000,000	38,000,000	47,084,700	285,084,700

2020-2021 Core Budgets - Allotments as at 30 June 2021 (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	3,766,642	-	423,200	4,189,842
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	7,367,844		6,436,387	13,804,231
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,817,500	1,817,500
	Subtotal A + B	11,134,486		8,677,087	19,811,573
C	Programme of Work	-			
1	Climate change	16,838,562	970,806	4,592,031	22,401,399
2	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	11,625,861	1,158,967	3,089,400	15,874,228
3	Healthy and productive ecosystems	21,072,040	2,468,581	5,267,636	28,808,257
4	Environmental governance	20,587,314	1,726,704	9,241,617	31,555,635
5	Chemicals, waste and air quality	17,631,885	1,613,122	3,684,429	22,929,436
6	Resource efficiency	21,080,938	2,471,155	3,953,900	27,505,993
7	Environment under review	17,135,161	504,405	6,178,400	23,817,966
	Subtotal C	125,971,761	10,913,740	36,007,413	172,892,914
D	Fund Programme Reserve	2,525,000	-	-	2,525,000
	Subtotal C + D	128,496,761	10,913,740	36,007,413	175,417,914
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	10,368,753	23,955,893	2,400,200	36,724,846
	Subtotal E	10,368,753	23,955,893	2,400,200	36,724,846
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	150,000,000	34,869,633	47,084,700	231,954,333

2020-2021 Core Budgets - Expenditures as at 30 June 2021 (\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Environment Fund	Overhead Trust Account	Regular Budget	Grand Total
A	Policy Making Organs	2,930,445	-	75,701	3,006,146
B. 1	Executive Direction & Management	4,945,759	-	4,266,281	9,212,040
B. 2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects on Atomic radiation (UNSCEAR)	-	-	1,241,650	1,241,650
	Subtotal A + B	7,876,204	-	5,583,633	13,459,836
C	Programme of Work				
1.	Climate change	12,467,465	839,893	3,132,524	16,439,882
2.	Resilience to disasters and conflicts	8,077,638	874,781	2,002,155	10,954,574
3.	Healthy and productive ecosystems	14,761,845	1,951,783	3,461,291	20,174,920
4.	Environmental governance	13,609,651	1,505,445	6,269,672	21,384,768
5.	Chemicals, waste and air quality	12,756,868	1,381,618	2,725,086	16,863,572
6.	Resource efficiency	14,474,732	1,406,391	2,647,489	18,528,611
7.	Environment under review	13,166,368	471,402	3,752,157	17,389,928
	Subtotal C	89,314,567	8,431,313	23,990,374	121,736,254
D	Fund Programme Reserve	1,178,957	-	-	1,178,957
	Subtotal C + D	90,493,524	8,431,313	23,990,374	122,915,211
E	Programme Management and Other				
	Programme Support	7,445,956	14,638,338	1,752,331	23,836,625
	Subtotal E	7,445,956	14,638,338	1,752,331	23,836,625
	Total (A+B+C+D+E)	105,815,683	23,069,651	31,326,338	160,211,672

3.3 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

With reference to decisions of the UN Environment Assembly⁵, UNEP has revised its Resource Mobilization Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to secure funding for the implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2025 and the related Programmes of Work, including the work of the governing bodies, management, administration, and oversight. The implementation plan for the strategy is built on strengthening the leadership and coordination of all resource mobilization functions in the Secretariat, focused action on various funding streams as well as increased coordination, communication and reporting across all funding sources. The strategy and implementation plan are effective 1 July 2021.

3.4 HUMAN RESOURCES

General Overview

As of 30 June 2021, UNEP employed 1,283 staff members consisting of 767 (60 per cent) in the professional and above categories, 8 (1 per cent) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category and 508 (39 per cent) in the general service category.

Senior Level Staff (UNEP Secretariat and MEAs)

Total staff at grade P-5 and above as of 30 June 2021.

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5
No. of Staff	1	3	9	48	133

Note: USG = Under Secretary -General; ASG = Assistant Secretary-General; D = Director; P= Professional

Senior Appointments

In the second quarter (April to June) of 2021, 13 senior staff appointments were made.

Position Title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Division
Assistant Secretary-General	ASG	Female	Indian	New York Office
Director, Programme Management	D-2	Female	Kenyan	Economy Division
Director, Programme Management	D-2	Male	USA	Policy and Programme Division
Executive Secretary	D-2	Female	Japanese	Ozone Secretariat
Chief of Service, Programme Management	D-1	Female	Peruvian	Secretariat for the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol
Chief of Staff	D-1	Male	Spanish	Executive Office
Deputy Director, Programme	D-1	Female	USA	Science Division
Chief of Service, Programme Management	D-1	Male	New Zealander	Communication Division
Principal Coordination Officer*	D-1	Female	Albanian	Mediterranean Action Plan
Regional Director*	D-1	Female	Uruguayan	Latin America and the Caribbean Office
Deputy Director*	D-1	Female	Lebanon	Ecosystems Division

Position Title	Grade	Gender	Nationality	Division
Principal Coordination Officer	D-1	Female	USA	Ecosystems Division
Senior Management and Programme Analyst	P-5	Female	Italian	Policy and Programme Division
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Male	Canadian	North America Office
Senior Administrative Officer	P-5	Female	Kenyan	Ecosystems Division
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Female	Japanese	Asia and the Pacific Office

*Staff member to assume office after 30 June 2021

Gender Parity status

The overall gender parity status remains the same as that of the first quarter (Jan- March) of 2021.

UNEP SECRETARIAT and MEAs												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	3	5	22	57	121	132	60	401	3	376	780
Male	0	0	4	26	76	130	89	41	366	5	132	503
Total	1	3	9	48	133	251	221	101	767	8	508	1283
Female	100%	100%	56%	46%	43%	48%	60%	59%	52%	38%	74%	
Male	0%	0%	44%	54%	57%	52%	40%	41%	48%	63%	26%	

FIGURE 5 UNEP Secretariat Professional & Above Categories

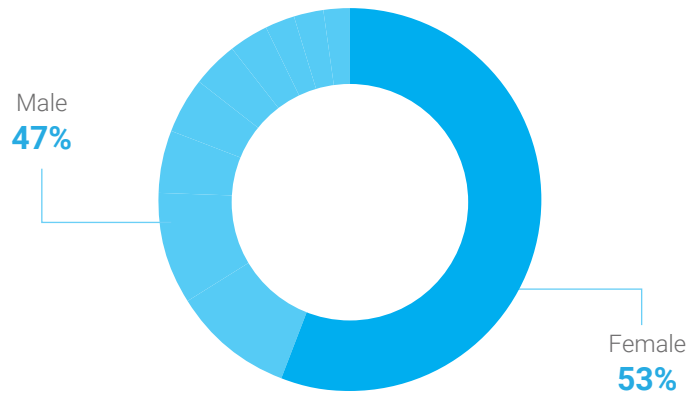


FIGURE 6 UNEP Secretariat General Service Category

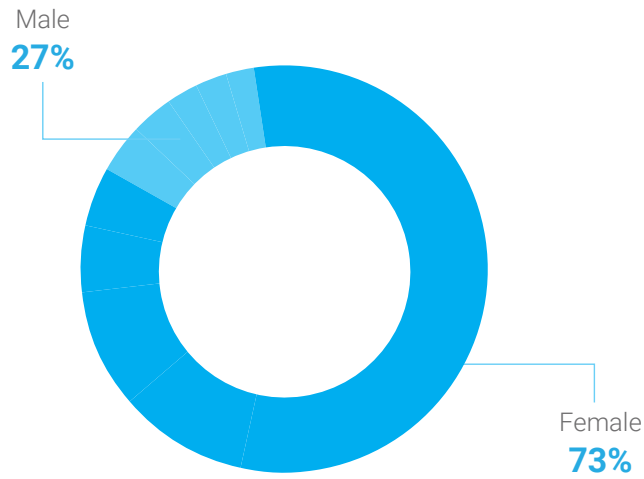


FIGURE 7 UNEP MEAs Professional & above categories

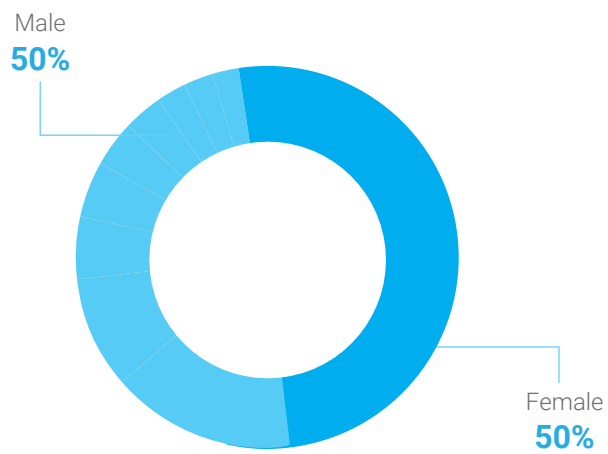
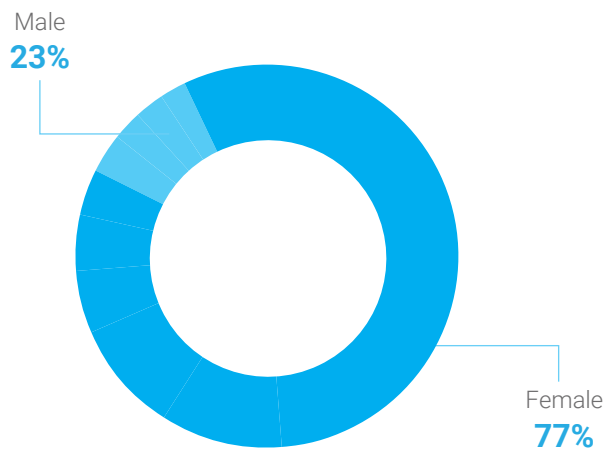


FIGURE 8 UNEP MEAs General Service Category



Gender Distribution - UNEP Secretariat and MEAs

The table below disaggregates the gender distribution between UNEP Secretariat and the MEAs.

UNEP SECRETARIAT												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	3	17	43	92	100	49	307	3	262	572
Male	0	0	2	22	56	104	66	21	271	5	97	373
MEAs												
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	0	1	2	5	14	29	32	11	94	0	114	208
Male	0	0	2	4	20	26	23	20	95	0	35	130
Total	1	3	9	48	133	251	221	101	767	8	508	1283

Gender status for P5 and above level – UNEP Secretariat and MEAs – 30 June 2021

Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	Total
Female	1	3	5	22	57	88
Male			4	26	76	106
Total	1	3	9	48	133	194
Female	100%	100%	56%	46%	43%	45%
Male	0%	0%	44%	54%	57%	55%

FIGURE 9 Gender Status for P5 & Above

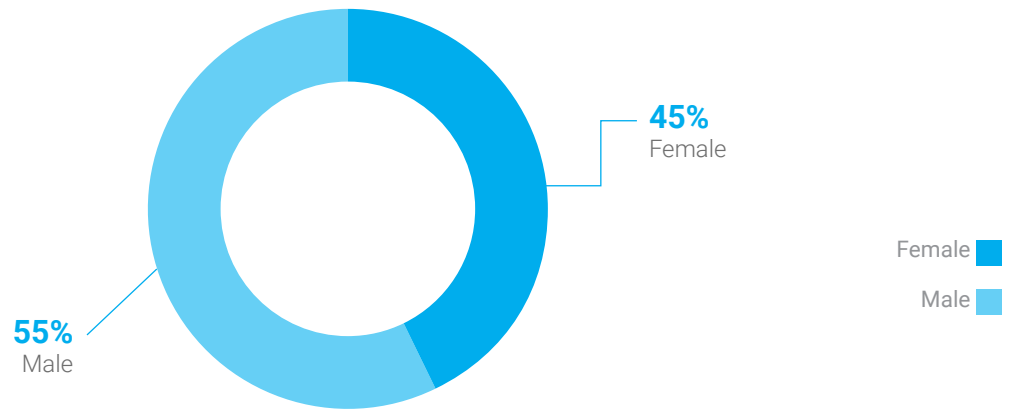
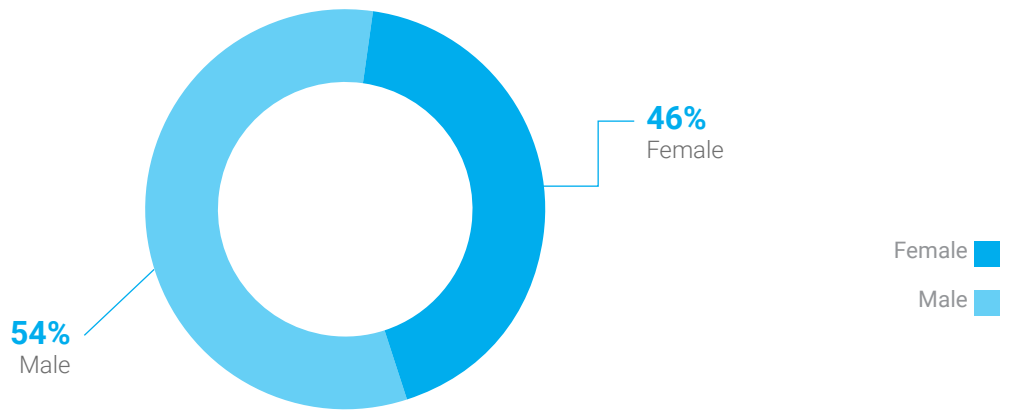


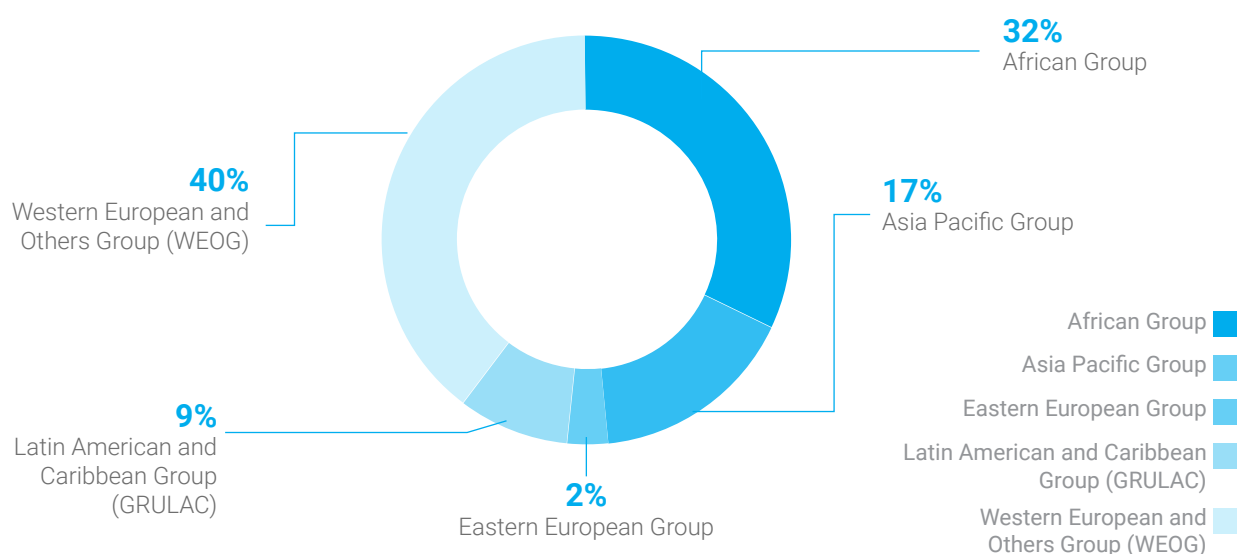
FIGURE 10 UNEP MEAs Gender Status for P5 & Above



Regional Representation of staff (UNEP and MEA Secretariats) as of 30 June 2021

Region	Total
African Group	406
Asia-Pacific Group	216
Eastern European Group	32
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	117
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	511
Stateless	1
Total	1283

FIGURE 11 UNEP Regional Representation



Regional Distribution of UNEP’s Professional and Above Level Staff

Regional Distribution	Professional and Above Level								Total
	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	
African Group		2	2	4	26	57	41	11	143
Asia Pacific Group		1	2	6	25	45	33	26	138
Eastern European Group				2	6	4	5	3	20
Latin American and Caribbean Group			3	6	14	23	23	8	77
Western European and Others Group	1		2	30	62	122	118	53	388
Stateless							1		1
Grand Total	1	3	9	48	133	251	221	101	767

Regional representation P5 and above as of 30 June 2021

Regional Distribution	Professional and Above Level					Total
	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	
African Group		2	2	4	26	34
Asia-Pacific Group		1	2	6	25	34
Eastern European Group				2	6	8
Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)			3	6	14	23
Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	1		2	30	62	95
Grand Total	1	3	9	48	133	194

Key Human Resource Risks and Issues

UNEP's Gender parity implementation plan is on track to meet the Secretary General's UN System-Wide Gender Parity Strategy. At the professional level UNEP's gender ratio is 52 per cent female to 48 per cent male overall. At the P5 and above levels the gender ratio is 45 per cent female and 55 per cent male.

Adjustments have been made to ensure that temporary special measures for the achievement of gender parity are in place, to balance recruitment of both sexes at the Professional level, particularly the P5 and above levels. Under these measures, all selections of male applicants at the D1 and P5 level require clearance from the Executive Office of the Secretary General.

Under the United Nations Secretariat Framework Gender Parity Strategy, parity is considered to be achieved within the 47 to 53 per cent margin. Nine out of the thirteen recent senior position appointments are female. UNEP is monitoring and consistently evaluating its overall gender targets against those set out in the implementation plan

UNEP currently employs staff members from 124 member states. At the professional and above categories, there are staff members from 113 countries.

UNEP remains fully committed to ensuring diversity amongst its staff members within boundaries of the Human Resources rules. To this end, UNEP has developed a Talent Acquisition and Outreach Strategy encompassing gender and geographical representation for 2022. UNEP is currently recruiting a P3 Outreach Officer to support the implementation of this outreach strategy with a view to improve diversity amongst its workforce and increase regional representation from un- and underrepresented Member States in the organization.

UNEP has developed internal dashboards that are available to Heads of Office, Directors and Hiring Managers to monitor diversity indicators within their respective Divisions/Offices/MEAs (geographic, gender) when screening and recruiting candidates, and continues to work at improving the pool of candidates applying to vacancies to ensure a wider geographic

distribution in the recruitment of staff at the international level.

UNEP continues to participate in career fairs organized by member states to raise awareness and interest from applicants from un- represented and under-represented countries. UNEP has also started implementing scheduled outreach sessions through its Regional offices to provide information on UNEP's scope of work and types of employment opportunities available. These sessions have been developed to facilitate a greater understanding of UNEP's work, and the types of skill sets required for our work. They also provide an overview of the UN application and recruitment process, and they also enable interested applicants to ask questions about the process and about UNEP's work.

3.5 AUDITS

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

Ongoing implementation OIOS audits:

- ... Recruitment Process
- ... Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ... Afghanistan Project Office
- ... Abidjan Convention Secretariat
- ... Resource Efficiency Sub-Programme
- ... Management of Partnerships
- ... Grants Management

Completed audits:

- ... Environmental Governance sub-programme

Planned audits:

- ... Management of Data Classification and Data Privacy
- ... COVID business continuity
- ... CITES Secretariat

Board of Auditors

The Board of Auditors has audited the financial statements and reviewed the operations of UNEP for the year ended 31 December 2020. The audit was conducted remotely and covered UNEP Headquarters, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat), the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and the Liaison Office to the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Addis Ababa Liaison Office (AALO) Ethiopia. Out of 84 recommendations, 35 have been implemented, 47 recommendations are under implementation, one recommendation was not implemented, and one recommendation was overtaken by events.

3.6 EVALUATIONS

During the reporting period:

- ... Three project evaluations were completed bringing the running total for 2021 to eight.
- ... Twenty-two project evaluations are currently ongoing.

In the context of the current pandemic, evaluations can continue as normal if they are deemed suitable for a fully desk-based approach. If field missions are required for a credible evaluation, only desk-based preparatory work is conducted. These evaluations will be continued when public

health conditions are more favourable.

Selected lesson: Terminal Evaluation of the project “Enhanced Coordination and implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) and its programmes”

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) requires stronger coordination, policy coherence and integration across ministries and, crucially, engaging those with key economic and financial portfolios. One main challenge is that Sustainable Development Goal 12 / SCP is narrowly perceived by policymakers, donors and the wider public as an environmental goal rather than cross cutting. Reinforcing this, the 10YFP has largely been working with Ministries of Environment, who typically do not have the political voice and weight to effect change across other Ministries and sectors of the economy and generate finance.

Sustainable Consumption and Production is central to economic and social development, but these links may not be obvious to decision makers and potential funders. It is therefore critical to articulate the benefits of SCP across economic, social, and environmental dimensions and engage with a diverse range of Ministries, including Ministries of Finance who can promote the mainstreaming of SCP in national economic plans, financial policy instruments and national budgets.

[Annex 1: Geographic Distribution of UNEP Staff Professional and Above Level](#)

ENDNOTES

- 5 UNEA 5 decision UNEP/EA.5/2 on the Medium-term strategy for the period 2022-2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022-2023



QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **155th** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

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